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Letter dated 8 May 2007 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

With reference to Security Council resolutions 1575 (2004), 1639 (2005) and 1722 (2006), I have the honour to convey the attached letter from the Secretary-General and High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union, dated 3 April 2007, transmitting the ninth report on the activities of the European Union military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, covering the period from 1 December 2006 to 28 February 2007.

I should be grateful if you would bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

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Annex

Letter dated 3 April 2007 from the Secretary-General and High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with the provisions of Security Council resolutions 1575 (2004), 1639 (2005) and 1722 (2006), I attach the ninth three-monthly report on the activities of the European Union military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR). The report covers the period from 1 December 2006 to 28 February 2007. I should be grateful if you would transmit this report to the President of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Javier **Solana**

Enclosure

Report of the Secretary-General and High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union on the activities of the European Union military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina

I. Introduction

1. This report covers the period from 1 December 2006 to 28 February 2007.

2. The Security Council in resolutions 1575 (2004), 1639 (2005) and 1722 (2006) requested that Member States, acting through or in cooperation with the European Union, report to the Council on the activity of the European Union military mission (EUFOR) through the appropriate channels and at least at three-monthly intervals. This document is the ninth such report to the Council.

II. Political background

3. During this reporting period, the general security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina remained stable. The political situation was dominated by the question of Government formation: on 3 January 2007 seven parties agreed a division of portfolios and programme goals for the future State-level Government; the Council of Ministers was approved by the House of Representatives on 9 February and the election of Bosniac and Croat delegates to the House of Peoples from the Federation was held on 27 February.

4. The technical talks on a stabilization and association agreement were concluded on 15 December but all the requirements for signing the agreement have not yet been fulfilled, including police reform, which remains the main obstacle. The report of the Directorate for Police Restructuring Implementation, issued on 22 December, has not yet been acted on by the State and entity governments and parliaments as required by the political agreement of October 2005. Political talks to facilitate the issue, initiated by the Chair of the Council of Ministers, are ongoing.

5. At its meeting on 26 and 27 February the Steering Board of the Peace Implementation Council decided against confirming the closure of the Office of the High Representative at this time. The aim now is to close the Office by 30 June 2008. The Steering Board agreed to review the situation at its meetings in October 2007 and February 2008.

III. EUFOR activities

6. During the reporting period, EUFOR comprised around 5,500 troops from 24 European Union member States and 10 other countries.[a] Rear Admiral Hans-Jochen Witthauer (Germany) took over command of EUFOR from Major General Gian-Marco Chiarini (Italy) on 5 December 2006.

[a] EUFOR currently comprises troops from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and Albania, Argentina, Canada, Chile, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey. Cyprus and Malta also contribute to the common costs of this operation.

7. EUFOR continues to conduct operations in line with its mandate to provide deterrence, to ensure continued compliance in relation to the responsibilities specified in the General Framework Agreement for Peace, annexes 1A and 2, and to contribute to a safe and secure environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It also provides support to the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in the search for persons indicted for war crimes, usually in cooperation with local police authorities.

8. EUFOR has been conducting and supporting operations in cooperation with local authorities and law enforcement agencies. The operational focus has remained on weapons collection activities, with a view to decreasing the quantities of illegal weapons and ammunition in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Over the reporting period 1,720 small arms have been collected, 14,000 rounds of ammunition, 491 hand grenades, 8.5 kg of explosives and 480 other items (mines, rockets, etc.).

9. On 27 February 2007, the European Union took the decision to reconfigure EUFOR taking into account the security situation in the country as well as the impact on the regional security situation. As part of its overall engagement in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the European Union will retain a military presence in the country in order to continue contributing to the maintenance of a safe and secure environment. EUFOR will retain some 2,500 troops on the ground, backed up by over-the-horizon reserves, ready to respond to possible security challenges throughout the country and to provide reassurance.

IV. Outlook

10. The implementation of the EUFOR reconfiguration will continue over the coming months and is expected to be complete by June 2007.